

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion and foregoing amendments, is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 1-4 are pending in the present application. The present amendment amends Claims 1 and 2; and adds new Claims 3 and 4. No new matter is added. Support for the claim amendments is provided by the originally filed claims and specification.

In the outstanding Office Action,¹ Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2001/00123252 to Kobayashi et al. (hereinafter "Kobayashi") in view of U.S. Patent 4,984,070 to Tanaka et al. (hereinafter "Tanaka"). That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Though they are different in scope, each of independent Claims 1-4 recites an interpolation process that determines a value of a first pixel based on a value of at least a second pixel arranged above or below the first pixel. The interpolation process is performed after (i.e., based on a result of) motion detection of video whose noise has been reduced.

Applicants' Figures 3 and 4 illustrate non-limiting examples of the above features. As shown, a motion detection processing section 43 outputs a result to a video signal interpolation processing section 44, which includes a field interpolation section 72 configured to perform an interpolation process.² More particularly, the field interpolation section 72 performs a spatial filter process to correct a displacement in the spatial position of pixels (e.g., see Figure 10) after motion detection is performed. As noted in Applicants' "Discussion of the Background" of the invention, a spatial filter process suppresses not only noise components, but also motion components of a signal.³ As such motion components are

¹ Applicants note that the Office Action Summary does not indicate whether the drawings filed on March 13, 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.

² Applicants' specification, page 27, lines 12-18.

³ Applicants' specification, page 2, lines 17-19.

examined to determine motion detection, the claimed invention advantageously performs the spatial filter processing **after** motion detection.

The outstanding Office Action cites only Tanaka as teaching the claimed interpolation process based on a result of motion detection.⁴ Applicants respectfully submit that the cited portion of Tanaka does not disclose the claimed interpolation process that determines a value of a first pixel based on a value of at least a second pixel arranged above or below the first pixel. Rather, the cited interpolation process of Tanaka is based on pixels of the same line (i.e., pixels to the left and right of an interpolated pixel). Kobayashi does not cure this deficiency of Tanaka.

Accordingly, for the above-stated reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Tanaka be withdrawn.

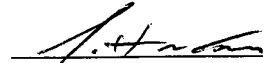
New Claims 3-5 also recite an interpolation process that determines a value of a first pixel based on a value of at least a second pixel arranged above or below the first pixel. Applicants submit that Claims 3-5 are allowable for the reasons stated above.

⁴ Office Action, 6/7/2005, page 3.

Consequently, in view of the preceding discussion and foregoing amendments,
Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. An
early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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